

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USNATO 05991 01 OF 02 131950Z
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CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 02 USNATO 05991

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: LTDP FOLLOW-THROUGH: DISCUSSION WITH FRG

DEFENSE ADVISOR

REFS: (A) USNATO 5838 (DTG 081733Z JUN 78),

(B) STATE 142832 (DTG 061942Z JUN 78)

SUMMARY: ON JUNE 13, FRG DEFAD VON SANDRART CALLED ON THE US DEFAD TO OBTAIN THE LATEST US THINKING ON LTDP FOLLOW-THROUGH. WE WERE VERY ENCOURAGED BY VON SANDRART'S RECEPITIVITY TO THE US THINKING ON PROGRAM MONITORS AND ON ASYG FOR CONSUMER LOGISTICS. VON SANDRART SAID THAT BONN IS JUST BEGINNING TO THINK ABOUT FOLLOW-THROUGH AND HE WILL LAUNCH THE US' IDEAS DURING DISCUSSIONS THERE NEXT WEEK. END SUMMARY.

1. ON JUNE 13, FRG DEFAD VON SANDRART CALLED ON US DEFAD TO OBTAIN LATEST US THINKING ON LTDP FOLLOW-THROUGH PRIOR TO FORMER'S VISIT TO BONN NEXT WEEK. VON SANDRART CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USNATO 05991 01 OF 02 131950Z

SAID THAT WITH THE SUMMIT MEETING COMPLETED, BONN WOULD, FOR THE FIRST TIME, REALLY BE STARTING TO COME TO GRIPS WITH FOLLOW-THROUGH ISSUES.

2. THE DEFAD RESPONDED THAT HE PROPOSED FOCUSING ON TWO BASIC IDEAS, THE FIRST OF WHICH WAS THE NEED FOR PROGRAM MONITORS, ONE IN EACH OF THE NINE PROGRAM AREAS. AFTER

THE DEFAD HAD PROVIDED AN IN-DEPTH EXPLANATION OF THE US VIEW, DRAWING ON REF B, VON SANDRART REPLIED THAT HE FELT THAT IF THE US HAD HELD THIS VIEW OF THE RATHER LIMITED FUNCTION OF PROGRAM MONITORS FROM THE BEGINNING, THE NOTION WOULD HAVE PRESENTED LITTLE DIFFICULTY. HE ADDED THAT HE HAD HIS STAFF LOOKING AT THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SACEUR AND SACLANT TO SEE TO WHAT EXTENT THESE TWO ALREADY PROVIDED THE MNC'S WITH THE NECESSARY AUTHORITY; HE BELIEVED THAT BONN WAS ALSO DOING THIS. THE DEFAD NOTED THAT THE MNC'S MIGHT WELL HAVE ALL THE AUTHORITY THEY NEED, BUT EVEN SO SHOULD BE DESIGNATED AS PROGRAM MONITORS WHERE APPROPRIATE.

3. THE DEFAD UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF RETAINING THE INTEGRITY OF THE NINE PROGRAM AREAS. VON SANDRART AGREED, BUT ASKED WHAT THE ROLE OF VARIOUS NATO BODIES -- E.G., EWG, DRC, CNAD -- WOULD BE WITH RESPECT TO THE LTDP. HE COULD ENVISAGE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT INDIVIDUAL MID-TERM PROGRAM ELEMENTS, ONCE THEY WERE MADE MORE CONCRETE, COULD BE PICKED UP AS FORCE PROPOSALS/FORCE GOALS, AND THEN HANDLED AS PART OF THE NORMAL PLANNING CYCLE, BUT PERHAPS BE GROUPED OR MARKED DISTINCTIVELY AS STEMMING FROM OR PART OF THE LTDP. LONGER TERM PROGRAM ELEMENTS PRESENTED MORE OF A POSER.

4. THE DEFAD STRESSED THAT THE LTDP MUST RETAIN ITS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USNATO 05991 01 OF 02 131950Z

SEPARATE IDENTITY, BUT NOTED THAT FOLLOW-THROUGH MIGHT MAKE USE OF THE NORMAL FORCE PLANNING CYCLE. FOR EXAMPLE, A LTDP ANNEX TO THE DPQ MIGHT BE EXPEDIENT. HE ADDED THAT THE EWG WAS THE LOGICAL GROUP TO RETAIN OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE LTDP. VON SANDRART AGREED, REMARKING THAT THOUGH THE EWG DID NOT POSSESS DETAILED KNOWLEDGE OF THE INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMS OR PROGRAM ELEMENTS, IT WAS PROBABLY THE PROPER BODY TO PULL TOGETHER PROGRESS REPORTS FOR MINISTERS.

5. THE DEFAD THEN WENT ON TO THE SECOND BASIC SUBJECT HE WANTED TO DISCUSS WITH VON SANDRART -- CREATION OF THE POST OF ASYG FOR CONSUMER LOGISTICS. HE SAID THAT THE US UNDERSTOOD THE MISGIVINGS OF ITS ALLIES, BUT FELT THAT A RATIONAL REDISTRIBUTION OF FUNCTIONS SHOULD BE MADE. THE DEFAD THEN ILLUSTRATED HOW THIS MIGHT BE DONE BY CONVERTING AIR MARSHALL MAC BRIEN'S POST OF DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF COUNCIL OPERATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS, TO THE POST OF ASYG FOR CONSUMER LOGISTICS, WITH THE FUNCTIONS OF COMMUNICATIONS GOING TO THE ASYG DEFENSE SUPPORT AND OPERATIONS TO THE ASYG, DEFENSE PLANNING AND POLICY. IN TURN, THE

ASYG FOR CONSUMER LOGISTICS WOULD PICK UP INFRASTRUCTURE FROM THE ASYG(DS) AND CEP FROM THE ASYG(DP&P) TO ADD TO HIS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CONSUMER LOGISTICS.

6. STRESSING THAT HE WAS SPEAKING ON A PERSONAL BASIS, VON SANDRART THOUGHT THAT SUCH A REDISTRIBUTION OF FUNCTIONS WAS SENSIBLE AND COULD PROVIDE A WORKABLE BASIS FOR ESTABLISHING THE POST OF ASYG FOR CONSUMER LOGISTICS. THE PROBLEM REMAINDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE

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PAGE 01 USNATO 05991 02 OF 02 131950Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USNATO 05991

TOP LOGISTICIANS IN BONN WERE NOT YET CONVINCED THAT THE NEW ASYG WAS NEEDED, SINCE THE SNLC HAD BEEN CREATED TO DO THE JOB. VON SANDRART VOLUNTEERED THAT THE WEAKNESS OF THE SNLC WAS PRECISELY THAT IT WAS MADE UP OF NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES, WITH ALL THE SHORTCOMINGS THIS MAKE-UP IMPLIED, AND THAT AN ASYG COULD BE USEFUL IN PUSHING FOR PROGRESS AND KEEPING THINGS MOVING.

7. VON SANDRART THEN BEMOANED THE FACT THAT IT WAS SO DIFFICULT, PERHAPS EVEN IMPOSSIBLE, TO SHIFT NATO IS PERSONNEL AROUND. THE DEFAD RESPONDED THAT THE PROBLEM MIGHT INDEED BE INSOLUBLE; HENCE ANOTHER WAY TO GO WOULD BE TO CONSIDER THE CURRENT STAFFING AS SUNK COSTS AND CALCULATE THE LARGE BENEFIT TO BE REALIZED FROM ADDING A FEW NEW PEOPLE TO THE STAFF AGAINST THE COSTS OF THIS ADDITION IN RELATION TO THE SIZE OF THE DEFENSE BUDGETS OF THE NATO NATIONS. VON SANDRART TOOK THE

POINT, BUT NOTED THAT THE PROBLEM DID NOT STEM SOLELY
FROM THE NOTION OF ADDING A FEW PEOPLE TO THE IS
BUT RATHER FROM THE CUMULATIVE DEMANDS FOR MORE PEOPLE FOR
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PAGE 02 USNATO 05991 02 OF 02 131950Z

OTHER REQUIREMENTS AS WELL, FOR EXAMPLE NICS, CCIS,
AWACS, AND ELECTRONIC WARFARE. ACCORDING TO VON SANDRART,
ADDING NEW POSTS POSED SPECIFIC PROBLEMS FOR THE FRG
FOR SPECIFIC REASONS (UNELABORATED). HE HAD ADVISED
BONN TO LOOK AT THE PROBLEM OBJECTIVELY, AND NOT TO
RESPOND WITH A VISCERAL "NO"*

8. CLOSING DISCUSSION, THE DEFAD REMARKED THAT THE IS
SEEMED TO FEEL THAT PETRIGNANI'S REPORT SHOULD BE NON-
CONTROVERSIAL, SO AS NOT TO DELAY GETTING FOLLOW-UP
ACTION ON THE LTDP UNDERWAY. HENCE, THE IS WAS
INCLINED NOT TO ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF PROGRAM
MONITORS IN PETRIGNANI'S PAPER. THE DEFAD SAID THAT
THE US FELT THAT THE QUESTION WAS NOT ALL THAT
CONTROVERSIAL. VON SANDRART AGREED, SAYING THAT HE
COULD LAUNCH THE IDEA EARLY WITH BONN AND ADDING THAT
IF THE DSYG'S PAPER DESIGNATED SPECIFIC ACTION BODIES
FOR INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM ELEMENTS, IT SHOULD DESIGNATE
PROGRAM MONITORS AS WELL. THE DEFAD SUGGESTED THAT
FOLLOWING VON SANDRART'S DISCUSSIONS IN BONN, THE TWO
OF THEM GET TOGETHER AGAIN AND, IF IT SEEMED DESIRABLE,
PERHAPS THEY COULD VISIT MUMFORD TOGETHER TO DISCUSS
LTDP FOLLOW-THROUGH WHEN THE ASYG RETURNS FROM HIS
DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON.

9. COMMENT: WE WERE VERY ENCOURAGED BY VON SANDRART'S
RECEPTIVITY TO THE US VIEWS ON PROGRAM MONITORS AND A
REDISTRIBUTION OF FUNCTIONS IN THE IS TO ACCOMMODATE
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE POST OF ASYG FOR CONSUMER LOGISTICS.
OF COURSE, IT IS ONE THING TO INFLUENCE VON SANDRART
POSITIVELY, AND ANOTHER TO BRING BONN AROUND. HOWEVER,
WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT BONN LISTENS CAREFULLY
TO VON SANDRART AND WITH HIM FAVORABLY DISPOSED,
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PAGE 03 USNATO 05991 02 OF 02 131950Z

BELIEVE THAT GAINING BONN'S ACCEPTANCE OF US VIEWS
COULD BE LESS OF AN UPHILL FIGHT THAN WE EARLIER
FEARED. END COMMENT. BENNETT

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